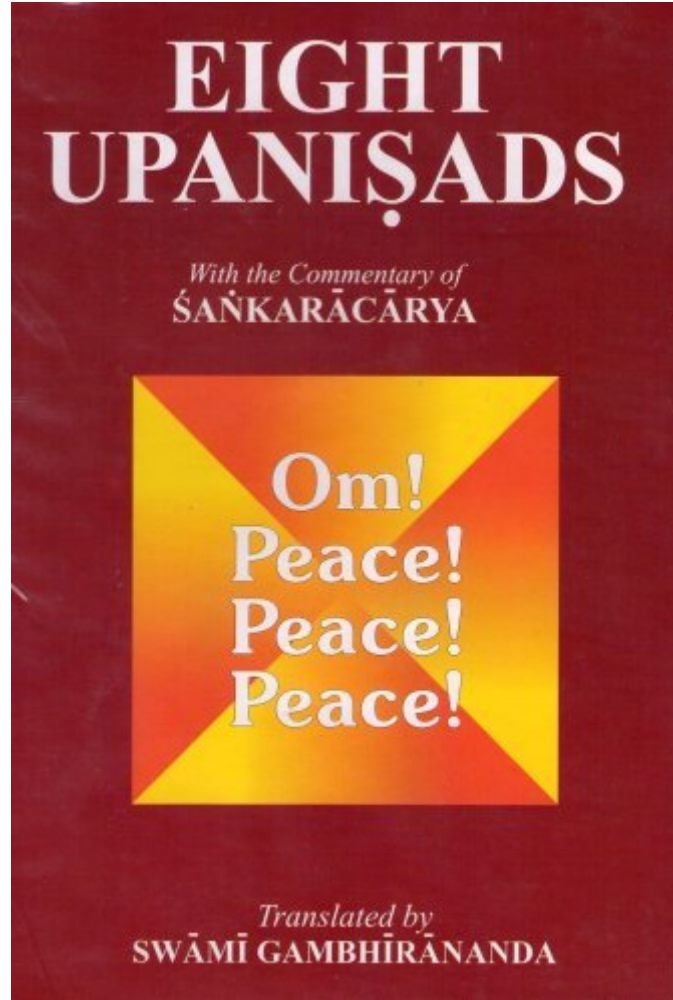


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Eight Upanishads, With The Commentary Of Sankaracarya, Vol. I:

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Synopsis

This is volume 1 of a two-volume set... Volume One covers the Isa, Kena, Katha, and Taittiriya Upanishads....Volume Two covers the Aitareya, Mundaka, Mandukya, Karika and Prasna Upanishad. Each verse has the Devanagri Sanskrit, with English translation and commentary, with further commentary by Sankaracarya (Shankara). Also included is an Index to texts in Devanagri Sanskrit.

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Customer Reviews

Of all the translations I've read - and that's quite a few - this translation best reflects the structure, rhythm, and order of meaning as it exists in the original Sanskrit. So many translations "help" the original by straightening out statements, which sometimes makes them easier to understand on first encountering them, but in the end, hides the complexity and subtlety woven into the original. Gambhirananda's language, while not as accessible as some, is the "must have" if you want to study these Upanishads seriously.

This is the Volume 1 of 2 of the first eight Upanisads. Volume 1 covers the four Upanishads, Isa, Kena, Katha and Taittiriya and is meant for study, rather than easy reading. The fact is, the

Upanishads are abstruse. The translator has "tried to be as literal and as true to the spirit and sequence of the sentences, as the English language would permit, without compromising comprehension." This is a verse by verse translation, (1) in Sanskrit (2) in English and (3) followed by Sankara's commentary after each verse. Let us look at the Katha Upanishad, Part 2, Canto 1, Verse 15 (on page 183, 3rd Impression, 1972) "O Gautama, as pure water poured on pure water becomes verily the same, so also does become the Self of the man of knowledge who is given to deliberation (on the Self)." This is followed by Sankara's commentary. Compare this verse to a highly readable version by Swami Prabhavananda, The Upanishads Breath of the Eternal (on page 33, 3rd printing, 1971) "As pure water poured into pure water remains pure, so does the Self remain pure, O Nachiketa, uniting with Brahman." There is no commentary. The Sanskrit student might choose the Gambhirananda version because of the Sanskrit text, faithfulness to the sequence of the sentence, Sankara's commentary and index in Sanskrit, while the rest of us might reach for the Prabhavananda version because it reads more like English literature, frequently paraphrases and doesn't have cumbersome detail. There is no wrong choice only what one is looking for.

I may have missed the description of the product or something but i was surprised it has only 4 Upanishads instead of 8 as the title says. I did not get too far into it yet, but so far it seems to be detailed in explaining every verse. Some can get confused because the organization is a little awkward. It explains the verse completely in English and then starts again by explaining each sanskrit word and its meaning. I think it would have been better the other way. I would caution not to make this the first book you read about the Vedic literature. Some back ground is a must because it goes straight into the subject of SELF and without knowing a little background about the Vedic ideology, it can easily overwhelm the reader. May be reading the GITA or some chapters of GITA which deal with this subject would help. Over all, i like it so far and hope i can gain some knowledge and help me in my life

Though insightful into Buddhist beliefs, this particular translation is not just a translation of the Upanishads per se, but also study of them. However there is more information regarding certain word and significance than the actual Upanishads themselves, which is frustrating to say the least. If you're interested in lingual studies, this is for you. If you're only interested in the texts themselves, look else where.

Eight Upanishads with the Commentary of Sankaracharya, Vol I : 1 Upanishads are tough stuff as

they deal with transcendental themes. Adi Shankara has written profound commentaries in Sanskrit on the major ones. Swami Gambhirananda's English translation of the Sanskrit commentaries is a boon to lovers of Upanishads lacking in Sanskrit knowledge. The translation is faithful to the original. The transliteration of Sanskrit texts is highly helpful. This book contains the translation of the four Upanishads viz., Isa, Kena, Katha and Taittiriya. The book is highly useful and valuable.

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